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COUNTRY Soviet Zone ~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC Military Information from Strausberg and the Bad Freienwalde Area

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 12 December 1951 to 19 January 1952

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 6 February 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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1. On 19 January 1952, the barracks installation on Klosterstrasse near the Straus Lake, Strausberg (N 53/V 15), was occupied by only a cadre of about 50 soldiers. A German craftsman working in the installation said that the new course in which about 300 trainees were enrolled and which was to start between Christmas and New Year's Day had not commenced. 25X1
the previous courses conducted in the barracks installation had consisted of sergeants and junior sergeants. Trucks 25X1 were seen hauling coal and flour to the installation in late December 1951. *

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2. An artillery training course in which 120 officers ranking from senior lieutenant upwards were enrolled began in the Landesjugendheim on Britzener Strasse, Strausberg, in late October 1951 and was still in progress by 19 January 1952. A local German craftsman was ordered by the organization conducting the artillery course to make the model of a laboratory. The true scale model of a boxcar, which was ordered to be made in November 1951, was set up in the yard of the Landesjugendheim in early January 1952, with the boxcar resting on six props. No instruction utilizing this training aid was noticed. The trainees were restricted to quarters. Shipments of soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were repeatedly observed arriving at the Landesjugendheim on trucks 25X1 and leaving the installation for an undetermined destination after a few hours. Vehicles observed at the Landesjugendheim 25X1 ***

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3. Residents of Freienwalde (N 53/V 25) observed a large column of vehicles consisting of T-34 tanks, about 20 motorcycles with sidecars and numerous trucks carrying from 5 to 10 infantrymen driving along the Alt-Bathsdorf road on 17 January 1952. The column came from the direction of Freienwalde. The construction of tents and dug outs was noticed in the woods around Freienwalde. ***

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4. Military personnel seen walking to the Landesjugendheim on Britzener Strasse, Strausberg, on 13 December included 3 colonels, about 10 majors, numerous captains and senior lieutenants, a few lieutenants and very few enlisted men, all of whom wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. A local resident said that one of the colonels was the commandant of the artillery school. An AT gun, apparently of 100 mm caliber, 1 heavy AA gun and 1 field howitzer were seen in an instruction hall belonging to the Landesjugendheim. About 60 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were seen assembling

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on the adjoining drill field. [REDACTED]

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5. On 3 January 1952, the Landesjugendheim was occupied by 200 to 250 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. There were numerous officers among the troops; two of them wore tank insignia. One 37-mm AA gun and 1 x 76-mm AA gun, were seen through the windows of the former gymnasium which belongs to the installation. **

* [REDACTED] Comment. The last course of instruction in the barracks installation on Straus Lake is believed to have been conducted in the summer of 1951.

** [REDACTED] Comment. The information [REDACTED] of paragraphs 2,4 and 5 confirms the Landesjugendheim as housing an artillery officer training course of the GOFG.

*** [REDACTED] Comment. A local field exercise by components of the 6th Gds Recz Div from Bad Freienwalde is probably indicated.

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